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February 26, 2008

Mr. Bruce Wolfe
Executive Officer
San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay St., Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Wolfe:

Subject: Request for a Six Month Extension of the Public Comment Period and
Deferral of the March 11 Public Hearing for the Municipal Regional
Stormwater NPDES Permit Tentative Order

On behalf of the East Bay Economic Development Alliance (East Bay EDA), we request that your Board extend the public comment period for the Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES permit for six months and that you also defer the hearing scheduled for March 11 for six months.

We support your Board's objective to protect the San Francisco Bay and local creeks in the region from harmful impacts caused by litter and illegal dumping. To this end, we are aware that your Board has been working with affected municipalities and businesses for the past few years in developing the Tentative Order. While removed from the technical details of this effort, it has, however, come to our attention that local agencies still have numerous areas of concern that are not adequately addressed in the Tentative Order.

Specifically, local agencies have offered many suggestions to make the requirements more flexible so they can be achieved in more cost-effective ways. It does not appear that these suggestions have been sufficiently incorporated into the Tentative Order. Given the state of the economy, local governments will be faced with many financial challenges in the coming years for existing programs so it is most important that these new requirements be cost-effective.

East Bay EDA is a public/private partnership of local governments, businesses and non-profits in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Through facilitation of regional collaboration and communication, we promote leadership and collaborative solutions to East Bay infrastructure challenges to assure continued economic vitality in our region.